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Summary record of the first part* of the first meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on . Friday, 30 June 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Cho Tae-yul ..... (Republic of Korea)

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* The summary record of the second part of the meeting, held on Friday, 30 June 2017, at 5 p.m., appears as document PBC/11/AS/SR.1/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/11/AS/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Opening of the session

2. **The Chair**, declaring open the 2017 annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission, said that the resolutions recently adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)) reaffirmed the Commission's role as an intergovernmental advisory body. As such, it brought a strategic approach and coherence to international peacebuilding efforts and was important as a convening platform. The current session would focus on "Partnerships for financing for peace".

3. Recognizing the need for United Nations peacebuilding efforts to have adequate, predictable and sustained financing, the resolutions asked the Secretary-General to report to Member States on options for increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding for peacebuilding activities through assessed and voluntary contributions. The Secretary-General was also asked to provide options for adequate resourcing of the peacebuilding activities of United Nations country teams and the peacebuilding components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including during mission transitions and drawdown.

4. Peacebuilding, which was primarily a national responsibility for long-term investment in peace, also required short-term flexibility to address urgent needs as well as sustained support. The importance of such support from a broad range of international partners had been highlighted, in particular, by the increasing complexity of financing options. The resolutions accordingly gave special attention to the partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank, whose importance was reflected in the United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-affected Situations, signed in April 2017. The joint statement of the Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank to be announced later in the meeting was a testimony to the two institutions' joint commitment to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Opening statement by the Chef de Cabinet

5. **Ms. Ribeiro Viotti** (Chef de Cabinet) said that the wide range of speakers at the current meeting highlighted the unique convening, advisory and partnership-building role of the Peacebuilding Commission as it moved towards reshaping itself in the light of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and sustaining peace.

6. It was essential for the United Nations system, as well as actors outside the system, to get better at preventing conflict. The number and severity of crises were increasing at too fast a pace for the multilateral response architecture to keep up. Prevention was a value in itself; it was a means not only of reducing suffering but also of enabling people to attain their full potential. Indeed, the Secretary-General had described it not as one priority among others but as the main priority for the United Nations. More than 65 million people were currently displaced in the world — the highest number since the Second World War. Humanitarian needs must be addressed, while at the same time efforts must be made to reduce them. The challenge concerned everyone, not just the United Nations system. Preventing conflict and sustaining peace was first and foremost a national responsibility; the role of the United Nations was a supporting one.

7. The question of how to finance prevention and peacebuilding was critical. It was not sustainable to continue spending huge sums on crisis response — $71 million in 2015 and 2016 — while investing so little in prevention. An improved system would increase the availability and predictability of funds, speed up responses when needed, lend itself to longer-term planning and enable the different funds to leverage each other.

8. The report requested from the Secretary-General, which would be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, would cover the progress made and make recommendations in respect of operational and policy coherence, leadership and accountability, capacities and partnership. It would also present options for increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding for United Nations peacebuilding activities. The report, whose central element would be the proposed platform for prevention, would also be a significant opportunity to use prevention and sustaining peace as the thread to bring together the relevant aspects of the ongoing reform process in support of a comprehensive, integrated approach. The platform would not be a new mechanism, but rather a means of ensuring implementation of early action.

9. One achievement was the progress made by the system and Member States towards ensuring adequate financing for gender-responsive peacebuilding. The system must be recommitted to the target of allocating a minimum of 15 per cent of all peacebuilding funds to promoting gender equality and women's

empowerment. In 2016, nearly 20 per cent of the resources of the Peacebuilding Fund had been devoted to such activities. Developments at the World Bank were also encouraging: the International Development Association's recent eighteenth replenishment round had seen a doubling of financial resources dedicated to addressing fragility, violence and conflict. Those changes, together with the resolutions on sustaining peace, showed the readiness of both Member States and World Bank shareholders to address issues relating to violent conflict. Financial flows within and towards conflict-affected countries must be focused more on the prevention of such conflict. The United Nations had accordingly also partnered with the World Bank to launch a flagship report on the prevention of violent conflict; it would highlight the role of development and look at how synergies between their respective instruments could increase the effectiveness of both institutions.

10. The Secretary-General's report would make recommendations to Member States and multilateral institutions on how best to invest in sustaining peace and tools for keeping societies on the path of peace. The Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank had recently signed a partnership framework on building the resilience of the most vulnerable, reducing poverty, enhancing food security, promoting shared prosperity and sustaining peace. The associated Trust Fund had demonstrated how relatively small amounts of money could mobilize resources in innovative ways and bring about collective outcomes. Public expenditure reviews of the security and justice sectors carried out jointly by the two institutions were a further example of that partnership in action and were critical instruments for civilian oversight and accountability of those sectors to parliaments and the public. In Liberia, Somalia and the Central African Republic, those reviews had combined the Bank's expertise in macroeconomics and financial management with United Nations expertise in security sector reform and justice. She reiterated, however, that prevention was primarily the responsibility of national actors, supported by the multilateral system, and that it enhanced national sovereignty by bringing together all actors and sectors, including civil society and the private sector.

Keynote address by the Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank

11. **Ms. Georgieva** (Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank) welcomed the growing collaboration between the United Nations and World Bank, which was enabling the two institutions, through the pursuit of peace, to serve ever more effectively those most in need of help: countries and communities affected by the horror of war or at risk of conflict. The World Bank was grateful to the Secretary-General for his relentless attachment to peace as the core issue of the United Nations system. It was essential to strive for peace at all times everywhere, but it had become particularly so in the first decades of the twenty-first century. It was true that the world was growing wealthier, that technology was having a positive impact on how people lived and worked and that significant strides had been made in combating extreme poverty, but at the same time financial and natural shocks, notably those deriving from climate change, along with increasingly frequent and unpredictable tragic conflicts had become the new normal. What could the partners do together to make countries and communities more resilient to such shocks, especially violent conflicts?

12. The High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, which she co-chaired, had recently been exploring the cost of humanitarian crises. When it had started its work, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, viewed as a country, could be considered the eleventh largest country in the world, just between the Russian Federation and Japan; six months later, it had moved up to tenth position. Those swelling numbers were largely due to conflicts. Progress in combating poverty always went hand in hand with peace; conflict was a driver of poverty. It was also known that conflict had an impact beyond those immediately affected: the destitute, driven by desperation, crossed borders to survive, thereby contributing to destabilization. Furthermore, the nature of conflict had changed. Formerly, a conflict was between two parties; the winner became the legitimate government. The emergence of such groups as Boko Haram, Al Qaeda and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant had changed all that. Such groups were not interested in government, they wanted only to create fear and destroy communities. When international humanitarian law was no longer respected, the task of those who would help people in need was made all the more difficult. In that context, it was not only a moral duty but also in everyone's interest to concentrate resources and attention on preventing conflict, resolving conflict and sustaining peace.

13. The World Bank had been set up for that very purpose, after the Second World War: to help countries destroyed by the war to rebuild and live in peace; its first loan had been made to France. Its ultimate mission was indeed to invest for peace and stability. It operated in three ways. First, it engaged in prevention, which was both better and cheaper than cure: each dollar

invested in prevention meant a saving of 16 dollars, not to mention the suffering spared. The World Bank considered that development was the most effective tool for prevention and had therefore established for poor countries its biggest financing source, the International Development Association, whose current funding level had grown by 50 per cent to reach a record $75 billion; that sum was about to be deployed in support of conflict-affected countries, with particular attention to situations of fragility.

14. She referred to the World Bank's work in Central African Republic, which had only recently emerged from a conflict. In Bangui, where only 8 per cent of the population had electricity, the Bank was investing in solar energy. It was making such investments in peace everywhere, in the Sahel, in the Horn of Africa, in Afghanistan, in Iraq; it was ready to do so in Syria at the earliest opportunity.

15. The second way the Bank operated was by attracting private investors, who might otherwise be wary of channelling funding towards areas considered too risky for investment. A so-called private sector window had been put in place in the International Development Association to bring private resources and entrepreneurial capacity to countries suffering from a lack of them, particularly through investments in women. Women must be in the front line of the search for peace. The World Bank's new women's entrepreneurship facility, soon to be launched in Hamburg, Germany, had accordingly been designed with a particular focus on countries affected by conflict. A further example of the Bank's innovative approach was the credit guarantee scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises in Yemen where there was still an ongoing conflict. So long as the international community worked together, everything was possible.

16. Working together was the third key to the Bank's pursuit of peace. No country or organization, no matter how strong or well-meaning, could meet existing and future challenges alone. Together, they could make a difference, especially for those currently so much in need of hope and help.

17. **Mr. Tambadou** (The Gambia) said that without international support, especially from the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States, in ensuring a peaceful transition of power in the Gambia earlier in the year, disaster would have befallen his country and indeed the surrounding area. Thanks to an initial grant of $3 million from the Commission, his country had been able to meet its immediate peacebuilding needs. He reiterated his Government's strong commitment to sustaining peace in the Gambia and in the subregion.

18. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that it was clear that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would never be implemented without peace and security and that prevention must indeed be a leading concern in that context. In a conflict-affected country like Colombia, where 12 million people lived in rural areas, a lack of infrastructure meant that large swaths of the population were cut off from the developed areas. There were therefore great opportunities for financing the 2030 Agenda. Girls and women would have an important role to play in ensuring the success of all related projects.

19. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea** (Mexico) said that it appeared that a necessary paradigm shift had been taking shape in the Organization in recent years. As for the focus on prevention, it was difficult to distinguish between that and efforts for sustaining peace; they were so intertwined that it would be hard to establish different platforms for them. Prevention clearly hinged on development. The 2030 Agenda called for the building of a sound social fabric whereby all individuals would have the possibility of fulfilling their potential. Given such opportunities, young people would not be tempted by violent extremism, organized crime or terrorism. The concern must be inclusion and empowerment. Armed conflict was only part of the problem; it was also necessary to address the phenomenon of societal crisis. The challenge was, through an effective United Nations presence, to put into effect on the ground the emerging paradigm shift.

20. **Mr. Alyowaily** (Egypt) said that development was indeed the best tool for preventing conflict, but it was also the best tool for preventing relapses into conflict. That was the very challenge of peacebuilding. In 2011, at the African Union Summit, Egypt had proposed an initiative that was about to come to fruition in the form of an African Union post-conflict reconstruction and development centre, reflecting the linkage between development and post-conflict action. The question was how the United Nations, the World Bank and the international community in general could help the African Union to take its post-conflict strategy forward, in particular through the establishment of that centre.

21. Sustaining peace implied sustaining capacities, since there could be no sustainable peace without sustainable capacities for consolidating peace. Peacebuilding was the necessary core of post-conflict reconstruction, to which the World Bank was well placed to contribute directly. A holistic approach was

called for in which peacebuilding would be seen as part of a continuum. Indeed that was implicit in the very idea, which Egypt had championed, of a peacebuilding and security architecture. He wished to know, therefore, whether the financing of peace might include not only peacebuilding but also peacekeeping by incorporating the sustaining peace concept.

22. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia) said that he was particularly receptive to the idea that one dollar spent on prevention could save 16 dollars for cure; however, even that one dollar was not always readily available. Was peace to be seen as the antithesis of conflict or as a synonym for development? The linkages between the three traditional pillars of the United Nations — peace, human rights and development — were becoming less clear. There was a need for a new mind set. Peace and development went together. That raised the question of financing itself, since different organizations were in competition to find funding for their projects. Again, an innovative approach was called for. Official development assistance might well be supplemented by other means of funding, such as crowdfunding, triangular and South-South cooperation. He cited the example of cooperation between his country and Norway in the training of women police in conflict-affected countries.

23. Efforts must be made to improve efficiency, to stretch each individual dollar by more efficient delivery of projects and programmes. He asked whether it was possible for the United Nations and the World Bank to work together to raise funds so that each organization did not need to seek its own funding and whether they could also join together in project delivery in the field so as to ensure that assistance went to the right people at the right time.

24. **Ms. Georgieva** (Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Group) said that the situation in the Gambia showed that resolving political crises was possible when the focus was on serving the people. The Board of Directors of the World Bank Group had just approved $56 million of emergency development policy support for the Gambia.

25. Colombia knew just how hard it was to achieve peace. There was a need to invest in infrastructure in order to connect communities to markets and create opportunities. Women in conflict, meanwhile, were often thought of as victims but they were so much more than that. Women were the best peacebuilding force, and the empowerment of women in particular would benefit women, their families, the community and the whole country.

26. The year 2030 was just around the corner, and that meant bringing together the public and private sectors as well as the United Nations at Headquarters and in the field. However, far too often, there was fragmentation and each institution often failed to realize that the whole was more than the sum of its parts. That was changing because both needs and aspirations were so great. Cooperation would therefore be necessary.

27. There had been signs of enlightened leadership, such as the visit by the Secretary-General to the World Bank Group, which had sent a strong signal that the United Nations and the World Bank Group would work together. The key was to identify needs, decide who was best placed to meet those needs, then work together including by sharing funding.

28. It had once been thought impossible for the United Nations and the World Bank Group to work together and raise funds together. One example was the severe situation, approaching famine, in some countries such as northern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. The World Bank Group had provided $1.8 billion in funding to those regions, partly through a partnership with the United Nations system. Those funds would go to the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and even, for the first time, the International Committee of the Red Cross in Somalia.

29. Working together had also meant, in the case of Yemen, social protection interventions targeted by the World Bank Group and UNICEF. As a result, the cholera outbreak had been mitigated where they had worked together.

30. The key to attracting funding was to demonstrate that results could be delivered. The three priorities of the World Bank Group were "deliver, deliver, deliver". It was also important to avoid seeing the private sector as the enemy. Small and medium-sized enterprises created the most jobs. Once the World Bank Group had created a policy framework for the private sector, financing would be found.

31. There was also a need to form structures, institutions, capabilities and commitments in regional contexts so that they were closer to people and more culture-specific. The African Union had already decided to set up a post-conflict centre.

32. **Ms. Ribeiro Viotti** (Chef de Cabinet) said that development was key to conflict prevention and infrastructure was the key to development not only as a means of generating employment but also as a means

of enabling a country to develop a sustainable development strategy.

33. The situation of women and girls was among the top priorities of the Secretary-General, who hoped to work more closely with Member States on those priorities.

34. There were interlinkages between the prevention platform, the sustaining peace platform and the development platform. The challenge was how to put that concept and that theory into practice. The Secretary-General had called for strengthened efforts to empower actors in the field and ensure that the conditions were created for a more integrated approach to actions that delivered local services to Member States and for the integration of those actions with the actions of partners so as to enhance partnership programmes. The United Nations and the World Bank Group were already engaged in joint analyses and programming. For example, in Yemen that partnership had led to financial commitments to supporting national institutions. Funds already mobilized would go to maintaining social services and preventing the humanitarian situation from worsening.

35. It was important for the African Union to strengthen its institutions in the area of prevention. The United Nations would look into supporting the new post-conflict centre to be established. The Secretary-General was keen to enhance cooperation and the relevant instruments. The United Nations and the African Union had signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim of enhancing the possibilities of working together in prevention, peacekeeping, development and similar areas in line with the common goal of stronger cooperation.

36. Efforts had been made by the United Nations to identify innovative sources of financing. The partnership with the World Bank Group would help identify those new sources of financing. Good projects that delivered results made it possible to raise more funds more effectively.

37. **Mr. Sisilo** (Solomon Islands) said that the Commission had contributed to the achievement of lasting peace in his country. In the past week a national dialogue on peace and sustainable development with the United Nations resident coordinator had been completed and a communiqué would soon be issued. It should cast light on the coming years' peacebuilding activities. His Government, with the support of the Commission, was ready and keen to implement the peacebuilding agenda. Guidance from the Commission regarding access to the peacebuilding facility would be welcome.

38. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal) said that there had been talk of successful preventive diplomacy regarding the Gambia, but for that success to be translated into reality, funds needed to be disbursed rapidly. Unfortunately, the sums mentioned were too small and were taking too long to arrive. The World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund could find funds for the private sector but reacted very slowly when it came to States, Governments and intergovernmental institutions. It would be interesting to know how representatives in the field could be made to act more promptly. The businessmen and especially the businesswomen of the Gambia would be delighted to know how to gain rapid access to the facilities mentioned. There should therefore be both effective and rapid resource mobilization. In the case of the Gambia, everything was perfect but time was of the essence. Resources and investment should arrive rapidly for the peacebuilding experiment to be a success in terms of long-term development.

39. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that peace should not been seen as the mere absence of violence. The best critique of that negative conception of peace was the Secretary-General's emphasis on prevention, namely, acting before violence broke out. That transition was an important advance.

40. Development should go hand-in-hand with peace but much remained to be done to analyse the relationship between those two issues. It was easy to measure 400 development indicators but there were no indicators for peace. There was therefore a theoretical imbalance in the relationship between development and peace. The structural relationship between war and development had not been studied. Groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant had their roots not only in religion, culture and society but also in the types of development that had been implemented in recent decades. His Government had a perspective that differed substantially from that of the World Bank Group and was critical of the United Nations but points of agreement were being found and it should be possible to work together better.

41. Development and peace were both indispensable but they were not the same. If the focus was exclusively on development through the Sustainable Development Goals, with no parallel focus on prevention and peacebuilding, the resulting imbalance would lead to failure. Without a culture of peace and public peacebuilding institutions, there could be no relationship between development and peace. Some 15 per cent of development projects focused on gender equality and those projects might well contribute to peace, but it would be useful to know how many

included a peacebuilding perspective. Women should be direct and positive actors in peacebuilding.

42. **Ms. Ribeiro Viotti** (Chef de Cabinet) said that, regarding the Solomon Islands, it was heartening to hear that a peacebuilding strategy would be announced and the Peacebuilding Fund would support it. As for the Gambia, one of the advantages of the Peacebuilding Fund was that access was relatively quick and funds could be made available quickly but not at the levels needed for the Gambia to address its immediate needs. However, it had helped to address certain emergencies. The United Nations would work with partners to mobilize more significant resources in support of the peacebuilding priorities of the country.

43. There was a need for more insights into the relationship between peace and development. Recent studies had shown that many conflicts had emerged from a sense of economic and political exclusion and environmental inequalities. However, more empirical evidence was needed to support thinking and interventions in that regard. She also agreed that women had an important role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

44. **Ms. Georgieva** (Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank Group) said that the Gambia was known to have a huge debt burden, which used up half the budgetary resources of the country. That debt burden had to be made more sustainable. There was therefore an urgent need to create more trust in the investment community so that the country would be perceived as being open for business and investment would be de-risked.

45. There had been recent discussions on the Solomon Islands and a hydropower project had been presented to the Board of Directors. Indeed, the Solomon Islands could not achieve development without access to basic services such as electricity, but it was often difficult to sustain efforts in small and distant countries.

46. Peace could not be a haphazard effort. Working for peace had to be sustained, inclusive and smart. Peace required the three Ds: diplomacy, defence and development. Perhaps that order should be changed and development should come first. In the Central African Republic, it might have been possible to avoid the bloodshed in 2013 if development had been closer to the people. The lesson learned by the World Bank Group was that it had to be present before, during and after conflict.

Joint Statement of the Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank

47. **The Chair** said that the draft joint statement of the Peacebuilding Commission and the World Bank, which had been provisionally approved earlier in the day, marked an important step in strengthening their collaboration. He invited the Commission to adopt the joint statement.

48. *It was so decided.*

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m.